

Docket # 03-187

Thank you for accepting public comments on the effect of communication towers on migratory birds. While most of us "can't live" without the TV/radio stations and cell phone services these towers support--birds are literally dying by the millions in collisions with over 138,000 FCC registered towers.

Songbirds, who are nighttime travelers, are particularly vulnerable to tower collisions, especially in the presence of fog, rain and low-cloud ceilings. Tower height, location, luminescence and the positioning of guy wires appear to impact fatality rates, but no one has thoroughly assessed the repercussions of tower strikes on individual bird species.

This is a matter of great concern to many conscientious citizens who care about wildlife. I respectfully ask the FCC to:

- 1) Initiate a a systematic analysis of communication tower and bird mortality issues;
- 2) Implement an investigative study, subsidized by the communications industry, to distinguish which components--tower placement, design, lighting--result in bird mortality;
- 3) Proceed with environmental surveys of all existing towers to evaluate how their placement and design effect migratory birds;
- 4) Stipulate mandatory environmental reviews for all proposed towers;
- 5) Institute immediate precautions based on existing data, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's voluntary tower siting and placement guidelines.

Thank you in advance for doing everything possible to prevent the destruction of migratory birds.

Sincerely,
Kim Hertton